APPENDIX F.

Concluding remarks of the Dewan at the closing of the Session on 31st October 1920.

Gentlemen, Before concluding, I shall touch briefly on a few of the most important questions that have been discussed at the present session of the Assembly. Classifying the subjects brought forward this year with reference to the objects of each representation, I find that they fall into the following four broad classes, viz., (i) subjects raising important questions of policy and relating to matters of fundamental importance to the interests of the people as a whole ; (ii) measures calculated to advance individual, local and sectional interests ; (iii) questions relating to administrative improvements ; and (iv) local wants and grievances.

Viewed from this point, it is impossible to avoid the repetition of a large number of subjects year after year in this Assembly, though many of them may come with new faces, nor is it possible for Government to give a final decision on such a variety of subjects, many of which involve very complicated principles, which could satisfy you in all respects. You should not therefore be disappointed if I do not undertake to give a final decision in each case, and for having been compelled to shorten the discussions. I can assure you that every subject discussed on this occasion will be carefully examined in the light of the present discussions, and early orders issued on such matters as are capable of final settlement.

As the purpose of your deliberations is to help the Government in finding a solution for some of the most pressing wants of the people and problems, you should consider how, having regard to the limited time at your disposal, you may best give effect to this object, and you should provide yourselves with an organisation that would enable you to concentrate your discussion on the most important questions, and put forward your views with the authority which a previous consideration of the subjects by you jointly, or by a committee selected by yourselves, would give, when they finally come up before the Assembly. I hope this aspect of the matter will receive your earnest consideration before we meet again and you will put forward some concrete suggestions on this subject at the next meeting, as the present change of conditions have rendered a reform of the existing methods imperative.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao suggested a scheme for decreasing the number of subjects that come up before this Assembly by bringing the Taluk and District Conferences into a regular relationship with this Assembly and giving greater facilities for matters of local importance to be dealt with by local bodies. It is the earnest intention of Government to strengthen local bodies and organizations as far as possible, and make them take fuller responsibilities with regard to local matters, and measures having this end in view will have their utmost sympathy. The detailed proposals which Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao and other members have promised to send will receive the careful consideration of Government and if necessary, we may discuss the subject again at the next Session.

While there were a few representations for increase of Village Courts and Panchayats, there were others such as the one referring to villagers being relieved of the responsibility to contribute for village improvement works, restoration of tanks, etc., and the transfer of Excise Revenue in local areas to local bodies, which tended to show that the principle of self-help which underlies these schemes was not sufficiently realised. Government are anxious that this principle should be fostered, and local institutions organized more and more on a basis of self-reliance and self-help, so that all existing resources may be utilized to the best advantage.

I have already told you that many of the important questions you have discussed such as, retrenchments, the position of *Inamdars*, the revision of *Maramat* establishment, the improvement and maintenance of Irrigation works, the future policy to be adopted in regard to District Forests, the expansion of the co-operative movement are all under the active consideration of Government, and steps have been taken to give sufficient scope for non-official opinion being consulted in dealing with these

important questions and all your representations will receive full consideration in that connection. As regards the revision of *potqi* to Shanbhogs and Patels, and rules relating to *Miras*, Government have, in the proposals I referred to in my opening Address gone as far as they can to afford whatever relief is possible, under present financial conditions, to these important members of the rural economy, and they can only express their sympathy with their further demands and aspirations.

Another important subject that has been brought up time after time is the question of remission of land revenue, whenever the crops fail, and assessment to be levied on lands under tanks that cannot be supplied with water, having regard to the quantity available in the tank.

These questions raise very intricate principles, fundamentally affecting the system of our land settlement. The matter is being very carefully investigated and I can promise the sympathetic consideration of Government in regard to the removal of really serious hardships affecting a large number of people. There seems to be also some little misapprehension as to the right of the holder of a land to sink wells and raise garden crops without being taxed. Under the existing rules unless the well derives its water supply directly or indirectly from a Government source of Irrigation, no additional rate is imposed for sinking wells.

The question of affording necessary facilities to the poorer villagers to get *Honge* leaves on reasonable payment will be considered. In regard to grant of lands to outside capitalists, an enquiry will be made as to the specific case brought to notice which is also the subject of an interpellation. Government have no desire to encourage capitalists at the expense of the local people whose interests and welfare are their primary concern. If it becomes necessary to encourage special measures for the development of tracts now devoid of population by affording facilities for the investment of large capital, suitable conditions will be imposed in each case to enable the local people to participate and derive full benefit from such enterprises and to safeguard their interest and lands will, as far as possible, not be granted with permanent occupancy right in such cases.

The question of receiving stamps in the shape of stamp paper in lieu of registration fees is under consideration. The question of reduction of registration fees will be further investigated.

The proposal to appoint Munsiffs to try both civil and criminal cases and to do away with the Special Magistrates, is opposed to the principle on which the separation of Judicial and Executive functions is now carried out. Government, however, will do whatever is possible to adjust the courts already established in order to avoid parties having to travel long distances when they have to appear in civil and criminal cases and to ensure a speedy termination of cases. Mr. Humza Hussain has explained to you how impossible it is for Government to undertake to pay *batta* to witnesses in criminal cases.

It will give me great pleasure to place before His Highness your unanimous request regarding the prohibition of cow-killing in the State, and I am glad to have Mr. Abbas Khan's assurance, on behalf of the Mahomedan community in Mysore, that the measure has their full support.

Government, as you are aware, have adopted special measures to increase the number of hospitals and the supply of trained mid wives in the *Malnad*, but the Department has found it difficult to provide the staff required in spite of special facilities accorded to the local people to be trained. This is a matter in which the influential people in the *Malnad* should exercise their influence and co-operate with the Department.

The question of placing Agricultural Inspectors and the executive staff of technical departments concerned in economic improvements, under the Deputy Commissioners raises a difficult point. These departments cannot undertake responsibility for development unless they have full control over the staff, but, at the same time, there is also a great deal to be said in favour of giving local officers and local bodies sufficient scope to be in touch with the work of the officers concerned. The question as to what may be done to ensure this object, without impairing departmental authority or responsibility, is under the consideration of Government.

In regard to education, most of your representations have been anticipated in the order which Government have now under consideration on the Education Memo-

randum. As regards the request that seats should be made available for every student that wishes to join a school in each grade of education, the University and the Department have been doing their best to meet the growing demand for accommodation, and during the present year, there was scarcely any instance in which admission was refused. In regard to grants to Government hostels, as a result of the vehement discussion on the subject at the last Session of the Assembly, the rules were recently modified. I am glad that the members who brought the subject forward consider the present concessions sufficiently liberal. The representation that the rules regarding the compulsory appointment of Supervisors for aided hostels and limiting the grant to the pay of the Supervisor and one third of the rent presses hardly on private hostels will be further investigated. The complaints regarding the unsuitability of English and other text books will also be examined. Government have made a special allotment of Rs. 20,000 for the publication of scientific and other books in *Kannada* during the current year and the question of co-ordinating the work done by the various agencies in the publication and translation of books is under their active consideration. Some of the members made an eloquent appeal that the University should be provided with all the Faculties. As I told you in my opening address, the entire question of our future University development will be carefully examined and a policy of expansion laid down. Some difficult questions were raised with regard to backward class and other scholarships. As there was a violent disagreement between members themselves on the points, I shall not venture to offer any off-hand solution. I have noted the difficulties brought to notice and the remedies suggested for consideration in dealing with the question of systematisation of scholarships. Government are fully aware that the existing arrangements for the enforcement of the rules to have standard weights and measures are unsatisfactory, and special measures will be adopted during the current year to provide an adequate supply of weights and measures.

Mr. Sreenivasiengar's plea for more liberal treatment of *minor* municipalities and special guidance to them in the initial stages, will receive sympathetic consideration.

Of the supplemental subjects brought forward, I have already assured you that Government are anxious that the collection of Income-Tax should be made as little harassing to merchants and traders as possible and every consideration has been shown in the matter of the production of their accounts in the orders issued. I have referred in detail in my address to the question of housing the poor, and Government will accord their sympathetic consideration to any proposals coming from local bodies for solving the problem on the lines suggested. The question of constructing a hall for the Representative Assembly is receiving attention.

I have now referred to the most important questions raised. I am sorry that the limits of time have not permitted the discussion of all the subjects, and I hope that, when we meet again, we shall be able to devise some system that will enable us, not only to go through the entire lists of subjects but devote some time to discuss the larger measures affecting the people as a whole, more fully. Before closing the Assembly, permit me to congratulate you on the high level you have maintained in the discussions and the earnestness and ability with which you have pressed your views. I feel sure that the increased opportunities which you have now of bringing to bear your practical knowledge and experience on administrative and other problems through this Assembly will enable you better to fulfil your duties as the representatives of the people in future and to co-operate more and more largely with the measures adopted by the Government for their welfare and advancement.